

Appl. No. 09/806,709
Reply to Office Action of October 7, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

Without prejudice or disclaimer, please amend the claims as shown in the below Listing of Claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A nucleic acid molecule comprising a promoter functional in *E. coli* and operatively coupled to a modified operon of a non-typeable strain of *Haemophilus* comprising A, B and C genes, wherein the A gene of the operon contains only a nucleic acid sequence which codes for a mature high molecular weight protein of the non-typeable strain of *Haemophilus*, and said nucleic acid sequence which codes for said mature high molecular weight protein has a nucleic acid sequence which is SEQ ID NO: 68 or wherein said nucleic acid sequence which codes for said mature high molecular weight protein encodes a HMW1 protein having an amino acid sequence which is SEQ ID NO: 69.

Claim 2 (Original): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said promoter is the T7 promoter.

Claims 3-8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Original): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising an additional nucleic acid sequence encoding the mature high molecular weight protein of a non-typeable strain of *Haemophilus*.

Claim 10 (Original) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising the *cer* gene of *E. coli*.

Claim 11 (Original) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising the *cer* gene of *E. coli* and an additional nucleic acid sequence encoding the mature high molecular weight protein of a non-typeable strain of *Haemophilus*.

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

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Claim 13 (Original): A vector adapted for transformation of a host comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

Claim 14 (Original): The vector of claim 13 which is a plasmid vector.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): The vector of claim 14 wherein said plasmid has the identifying characteristic of a plasmid which is ~~selected from group consisting of:~~

~~DS-1046-1-1 (ATCC No.: 203263)~~

~~JB-2507-7 (ATCC No.: 203262)~~

~~BK-86-1-1 (ATCC No.: 203258)~~

~~BK-35-4 (ATCC No.: 203259)~~

~~BK-76-1-1 (ATCC No.: 203261)~~

~~DS-2334-5 (ATCC No.: 203260)~~

~~DS-2400-13 (ATCC No.: 203257)~~

Claims 16-36 (Cancelled)